## Volunteer Community Spotlight – 2011 Ladew Topiary Gardens Lizanne Smith - Volunteer

Lizanne Smith is a very valued member of the volunteer workforce at Ladew Topiary Gardens. As a former elementary education teacher, it's no surprise she chose to devote her volunteer time to the Children's Education Programs at Ladew. Lizanne began volunteering at Ladew in 2006, after a chance encounter with Sheryl Pedrick – Education Coordinator at Ladew. At the time, Lizanne was working part time at the Bel Air Library Children's Section, which is a great resource for Sheryl. Always on the look-out for new volunteers, Sheryl mentioned all the opportunities available at Ladew.

Lizanne was familiar with the Gardens after having first visited the gardens some 30 years ago (and "fell in love with" the White Garden) so she decided to become involved and as they say – the rest is history. Lizanne is frequently seen leading school children on nature walks. She helps with Maple Magic and Children's Day whenever possible and she assists with the summer camp program. This past summer she taught weaving to the 8 to 10 year-olds in the Art in Nature Camp. Much to the campers' surprise, Lizanne submitted the group's weaving project to the Maryland State Fair and it won 1st prize for their age group! When asked about her 'find' at the library, Sheryl Pedrick comments, "Lizanne is one of Ladew's most dedicated and reliable volunteers. The kids love her and so do we!"